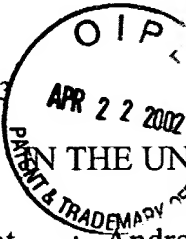


P21299.A03



#4
4-25-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Andreas MESCHENMOSER

Group Art Unit: 1731

Appln. No. : 09/982,175

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : October 19, 2001

For : SHOE PRESS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

RECEIVED
APR 24 2002
TC 1700

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the following document for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicant submits herewith a copy of a European Search Report dated March 21, 2002 conducted in European Patent Application No. 01 11 8219, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

- (1) German Gebrauchsmuster No. 296 22 025 U published May 7, 1997, as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 17-19, 21, and 22 of the European application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,065,396 issued to SCHIEL et al. May 23, 2000 which is

identified as a U.S. patent family member of the above-cited document;

(2) German Patent Application No. 197 23 172 published December 10, 1998, as an "A" category document (i.e., a document relevant to the technological background of the invention). In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1-3, 7, 9, 13-15, 18 of the European application;

(3) German Patent Application No. 198 02 054 published July 22, 1999, as a "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 23-30 of the European application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a copies of U.S. Patent No. 6,325,894 issued to STEINER et al December 4, 2001 and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0009181 A1 published July 26, 2001, which are identified as U.S. patent family members of the above-cited document;

(4) European Patent Specification No. 0 064 933 B1 published November 17, 1982, as an "A" category document; and

(5) German Patent Application No. 198 16 235 published October 14, 1999, as an "A" category document.

Copies of the above-listed documents are enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy

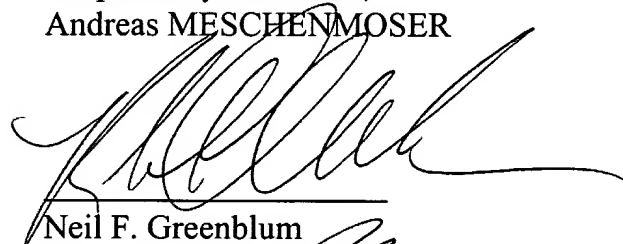
of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Applicant notes that, while this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months from the date of filing, Applicant has not received a first action on the merits from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents is requested under C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3).

However, if the first action on the merits has been mailed prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees necessary to ensure consideration of the documents cited herein to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Andreas MESCHENMOSER



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April 22, 2002
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